

A 20TH minute goal by Dylan Evans gave Wycombe Wanderers the win they desperately wanted in their second Anglo-Italian Inter-League Semi-Professional Trophy match on Wednesday against Teramo. But if the Blues are to win the return matches in Italy next month they will have to overcome seemingly insurmountable problems — and also play a lot better than they did on Wednesday.

Compared with their 4-0 thrashing of Pistoiese a fortnight ago, this match was disappointing, although Teramo were stronger defensively. After a promising first half, Wanderers seemed to run out of ideas on how to break down the Italians' effective rearguard.

Despite that, they managed to pull off the all important victory which must give them a chance of qualifying for the final on June 21. The club from each country with the best record will contest the final and at the moment, it would appear to be between Wycombe and Wimbledon as to who are the English representatives. Wimbledon, like Wanderers, have won both their matches but they have scored seven goals compared with Wanderers' five.

It will all depend, of course, on the results of the matches in Italy next month. And there's not much doubt that Wycombe will find life a good deal more difficult.

The Blues already know after their experience in Monza this season, just how well these Italians play on home soil but it is not their skill that worries me, it's their gamesmanship.

There were times in the first half on Wednesday when two or three players could have been given their marching orders for continual fouling. Free kick followed free kick — on average, one every 30 seconds at one stage — as Teramo flagrantly

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Teramo 0 REPORT BY STUART EARP

disregarded the laws of the game. One particular incident, when one of the Italians walked out of the defensive 'wall' and kicked the ball away as Wycombe were about to take a free kick will stand out in my mind as an unsavoury piece of gamesmanship that was totally unnecessary.

Referee Colin Downey did his job sympathetically but eventually had to bring out his book to take the name of Audo Palandrani for continual fouls. The caution came in the nick of time for some of the Wycombe players must have been on the verge of losing their tempers in the face of non-stop infringements. Many officials would have taken a firmer line but Mr Downey, to his credit, tried to allow the game to flow and played advantage almost to perfection.

One of Wycombe's biggest worries, however, must be the officials in Italy. If Teramo and Co. are allowed to get away with such tactics on their home ground, then Wanderers are going to suffer. All they can do is play their own style of football and try to stay cool. With each club in with a chance of £500 from Rothmans, a booking is an expensive business, although the Italians don't seem to take the same view — they've had two players sent off and 10 booked in their matches so far.

Wanderers included in their

squad a familiar face on Wednesday — Steve Perrin. Steve was a firm favourite at Wycombe last season and signed for Crystal Palace last summer. He has been cleared to tour with Wanderers but will be back at Selhurst Park next season to fulfil his contract. He wasn't used against Teramo but is likely to be an extremely useful member of the touring party.

Wycombe had things very much their own way in the first half against Teramo, and with John Delaney and Keith Mead dominating the defence, the Blues set about their task of breaking down the Italians' defence. The crowd did not have to wait long for after 20 minutes, Evans put the home side in front. Ray Eaton's corner was obligingly returned to him by an Italian defender and the second cross found Delaney at the far post. He headed back to Howard Kennedy who drove in a shot from point blank range which struck goalkeeper Leandro Casegrande. The ball ran loose for a second and Evans pounced to thump home the vital early goal.

Casegrande blocked Kennedy's shot five minutes later on the six yard line after Mick Holifield had won a corner. Holifield's pace troubled the Italians who were forced to hack him down on several occasions. The fouling got worse at this stage and eventually

Palandrani was booked for a foul on Holifield. Thankfully, these tactics ceased after half time.

I felt Wanderers were extremely disappointing in the second half. With Teramo pushing forward in search of an equaliser, the Blues had more time and space to execute moves but they seemed to lose the initiative. At times, players had the ball at their feet in midfield but had to stop and slow the game down almost to a standstill before making the pass.

What Wycombe really needed was a second goal but although Delaney went close after Mead headed on a Terry Reardon free kick, it was the Italians who looked more dangerous until the last quarter of the match. Then Wycombe began to find their form. Holifield drove one shot perfectly towards the corner only to see Sacconi clear off the line and soon afterwards Tony Horseman clipped a free kick inches over the crossbar. Martin Gilligan, who came on for Dave Alexander, forced Casegrande to tip away a cross to keep Wanderers firmly in the driving seat at the final whistle.

As stated earlier, Wimbledon have the best record after the two games on English soil in the competition. They have won their matches 4-0 and 3-0 while Nuneaton also won both games — 3-0 over Siracusa and 1-0 against Benevento. The Italians' strongest side Monza have four points after holding, Scarborough 0-0 and beating Stafford 1-0 but in the same section, Udinese have lost both matches. Pistoiese held Enfield 1-1 at Southbury Road on Wednesday.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, J. Delaney, R. Eaton; H. Kennedy (sub G. Mackenzie 56 mins), T. Reardon, D. Alexander (sub M. Gilligan 77 mins); D. Evans, A. Horseman, M. Holifield. Subs: S. Perrin, D. Bullock, P. Spittle (not used).

TERAMO: L. Casagrande; A. Palandrani, F. Stanzione, R. Canestrari, G. Sabbadini; M. Vulpiani, P. Minozzi, B. Piccioni, R. Posocco (sub O. Sacconi 45 mins); D. Pellicia, L. Spina (sub F. Di Marco 45 mins). Subs: B. Rofi, P. Angeloni (not used).

Referee: C. Downey.
Half-time: 1-0. Goalscorer, Evans (20).

Approx. attendance: 1,800.

Matches 21/5/76: Wycombe Wanderers 1, Teramo 0; Enfield 1, Pistoiese 1; Scarborough 4, Udinese 0; Stafford Rangers 0, Monza 1; Wimbledon 3, Siracusa 0, Nuneaton 1, Benevento 0.

How they stand

ANGLO-ITALIAN INTER-LEAGUE
SEMI-PROFESSIONAL TOURNAMENT
Tables after Two Matches

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wimbledon	2	2	0	0	7	0	6
Wycombe Wanderers	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Nuneaton	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Scarborough	2	1	1	0	4	0	4
Stafford Rangers	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Enfield	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monza	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Teramo	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Pistoiese	2	0	1	1	1	5	1
Benevento	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
Udinese	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
Siracusa	2	0	0	2	0	6	0